

Message Text

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17

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-07 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4847

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

SECDEF IMMEDIATE

USDEL MBFR VIENNA IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

USNMR SHAPE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT: NEWS REPORTS ON NATO NUCLEAR OFFER IN MBFR

1. LONDON TIMES (LT) AND FINANCIAL TIMES OF SEPTEMBER 18 CARRY PROMINENT STORIES THAT INFORMED SOURCES IN BRUSSELS INDICATE THAT NATO HAS AGREED TO OFFER A REDUCTION OF 1,000 TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN MBFR.

2. TIMES ARTICLE BY MICHAEL HORNSBY LINKS NUCLEAR OFFER TO COMMON CEILING. TIMES DEFENSE CORRESPONDENT (HENRY STANHOPE) NOTES THAT NATO HAS HELD OUT AGAINST
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A NUCLEAR OFFER ALTHOUGH NETHERLANDS HAD TRIED TO

INTRODUCE ONE. TIMES ARTICLE MIXES IN REPORT ON INITIATION OF FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS ON GREEK WITHDRAWAL. BUT NUCLEAR OFFER GETS HEADLINE AND MOST PROMINENT COVERAGE.

3. FINANCIAL TIMES ARTICLE, WITH NO BY-LINE, BUT FROM BRUSSELS, CARRIES ALMOST SAME WORDING AS LT. ARTICLE ALSO EMPHASIZES THAT NATO AGREEMENT IS "IN PRINCIPLE ONLY" AND THAT 7 PARTICIPATING NATO COUNTRIES ARE "UNLIKELY TO HAVE AN OFFER READY FOR THE SEPTEMBER 26 START OF THE NEW ROUND IN VIENNA".

4. NO OTHER MAJOR MEDIA HAS CARRIED STORY AS OF A.M., SEPTEMBER 18.

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